

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2010
Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

"Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community."

Members

Present: Vice-Chair Jennifer Dawson Doris Brandt Dianna Cotter
Ron Johns Neal Klein James Oravetz
Ronald Sult Lesley Woodruff

Members

Absent: Chair Michael Simpson (excused)

Staff

Present: Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Others

Present: Susan Walther

VICE-CHAIR JENNIFER DAWSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:05 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of February 8, 2010

MOTION #1: Brandt/Woodruff to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for February 8, 2010 as amended. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Simpson]) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Susan Walther discussed signage on Deborah Road by Mabel Rush Elementary School because drivers do not seem to be traveling at 20 mph. She said there is a sign off Haworth Avenue and a sign on right after the mobile home park, but then there is nothing. If a driver is traveling from Douglas Street, there are no signs at all on Deborah Road. She was concerned because this is a straight-away road, so drivers speed up to around 35-40 mph right by an elementary school. The only ones controlling the traffic are the crossing guards signaling drivers to slow down. She felt there should be more signage to clearly indicate when the school zone starts and stops so people know how long to drive slowly.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, stated the entire neighborhood is all residential drivers should still be traveling at 25 mph until moving into the school zone at 20 mph. He offered to visit the area to see if any signs are missing or if additional ones need to be installed. He should have a report available for the next meeting.

Commissioner Dianna Cotter asked if there were still problems with congestion in the area during pick up times.

Ms. Walther said it was really bad for a while, but it has gotten better, although some buses get stuck there.

NEW BUSINESS

A) TSC-10-005: First Street around 2nd Way – Hidden driveway caution sign

TIME – 7:12 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report). Staff did not consider any additional signage was appropriate because of the short traveling distance in which to read and understand message. There is also a lack of area for the sign to be placed where it would be visible. Based on the requirements from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, no signage would be appropriately applied so the area is recommended to remain as it is. Staff noted the stop bars have been re-applied to improve visibility.

MOTION #2: Brandt/Cotter to approve **TSC-10-005** staff recommendations to leave the area as it is and not apply any new signage. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Simpson]) Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-09-015: 3rd and Chehalem Streets – Request for reconsideration of decision

TIME – 7:19 PM

Vice-Chair Dawson clarified with staff that two or more citizens needed to make a request for reconsideration in order to declare another public hearing; only one letter was received during the appeal period. Staff replied the homeowner was made aware of the meeting tonight and was expected to attend, but they are not present.

Commissioner Ron Johns noted one of the issues discussed in the letter referred to emergency vehicle access which was previously discussed as part of the decision.

Mr. Chiu stated there was nothing new to add to the report from the engineering side of the matter; the lanes are narrow and the turning radius is tight so it is necessary to have a parking limitation on that stretch of road.

MOTION #3: Cotter/Woodruff to deny the request for reconsideration of the TSC-09-015 decision. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Simpson]) Motion carried.

B) TSC-09-012: 3rd Street west of Airpark Way – Response to homeowner's question

TIME – 7:23 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report which was a follow-up to some questions asked by a landowner concerning the TSC decision to rescind the parking restriction at 2521 and 2525 E. 3rd Street (see official meeting packet for full report). Staff replied to his questions stating there were no plans to widen the pavement and the city will not demolish the shed located there as it is not within the City's right-of-way.

Commissioner Neal Klein wondered if staff could research some kind of agreement with the developers in the area who would benefit from that road being widened so the City would not have to pay full price, but still increase the safety margin with a wider road. Staff replied that conditions for those developments are already set in motion and it would not be proper for the City to go back and place additional conditions on the

development agreements after they have been approved. Staff hoped the installation of the right in, right out only at the Hwy 219 intersection would help alleviate the amount of traffic that occurs on that segment of road.

Commissioner James Oravetz suggested installing a stop sign from 2nd Street onto 3rd Street to get people to slow down before the intersection until the right in, right out is installed. Staff replied a two to three-way stop may be a worthwhile situation to look at after the right in, right out is installed as long as analysis warrants it; he felt it would be harder to justify installing just one sign.

Vice-Chair Dawson asked staff to make a note to revisit and survey this area after the installation.

C) TSC-10-003: Emma at Creekside – STOP sign on Emma

TIME – 7:35 PM

Ms. Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, reported that no appeals or objections expressed so the stop sign will be installed.

Commissioner Johns asked if there was enough space to put a stop sign there. Mr. Chiu replied the Public Works Department is aware of the need for the sign to be installed and no one has mentioned that it is not possible.

D) TSC-09-010: Vittoria Way – Post-installation review

TIME – 7:38 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report). He completed a follow-up traffic survey after stop signs were placed along Vittoria Way because there were concerns that traffic may begin to flow onto Aquarius Boulevard. Data has confirmed an increase of traffic on Aquarius Blvd. but staff does not recommend any changes at this time. Staff suggested reviewing the area again when Crestview is punched through.

Commissioner Oravetz stated he has not heard about any problems from local residents and even though there is an increase, not one seems to be complaining about it; neighbors seem to be pretty happy with the solution.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff noted that during the hearing people requested a follow-up report in six months which would be in April. She asked if there is a letter to send out to the neighborhood or should the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) expect some of those citizens to attend next month's meeting.

Ms. Newell suggested sending out a survey to the neighborhood.

Vice-Chair Dawson suggested including the data from the recent survey and the staff's conclusions.

Commissioner Klein suggested placing the item on the agenda for next month with the notification to the involved citizens so time would be available for feedback. He wished to show that the TSC followed through with the matter as requested.

Commissioner Cotter agreed this would be a good way to let the public know the TSC is still paying attention to this area.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Engineering

Mr. Chiu gave updates on the ARRA Pavement resurfacing with bids opened on February 11, 2010; bids for Second Street between Hwy 219 and Springbrook Road at Fernwood Road will open on March 11, 2010; and bids for the City Center Revitalization curb extension at 3rd Street and College Street opened on March 4, 2010. He discussed the idea of crossing flags at crosswalks in downtown Newberg which was denied as an allowable traffic control device in the state by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Commissioner Klein asked if other pedestrian devices could be pursued and requested inviting a representative from ODOT to the TSC work session in June for an open discussion of options.

Discussion followed on **TSC-10-002B** regarding Mr. Clements request for guard rails along Hwy 99W at his home. Inquiries were sent to ODOT; installment of guard rails seemed unlikely.

B) Police

Ms. Newell reported the department was busy investigating the recent pharmacy robberies and radio system upgrade project. She also stated the Information Technology (IT) Department is also working on the website with a project to get a separate page for each TSC member, so short biographies need to be provided by each. Discussions followed about having Commissioner Woodruff write up something on the progress of the bicycle safety grant for the website as well.

C) Items from Commissioners

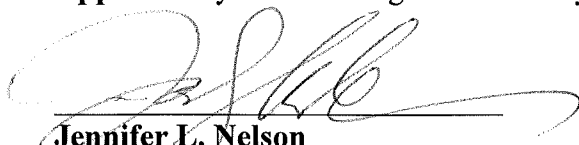
Vice-Chair Dawson said she attended a workshop recently and wished to bring some material to the next work session.


Commissioner Woodruff said she would be meeting with librarians to start planning what needs to be done next with the bike safety grant and she will give further updates next time.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM until April 12, 2010.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 12th day of April, 2010.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary


Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair